Message Text

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14-10

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SIL-01 CU-02 LAB-04 EB-07 USIA-06

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R 252124Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3395

INFO AMEMBASSY JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASY CARACAS

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GUATEMALA FOR ROCAP

EO 11652: N/A TAGS: ELAB, PN

SUBJ: AIFLD-PROPOSED AGRARIAN UNION DEVELOPMENT (AUDS)

PROGRAM 1975-76

REFS: A) STATE 060762 B) PANAMA 1097 OF FEBRUARY 22, 1974

1. MISSION SUPPORTS PROGRAM AS OUTLINED REF A. WE SEE
NO DIFFICULTY IN CARRYING OUT AUDS PROPOSALS FOR
PANAMA SO LONG AS PARTICIPANTS ARE LIMITED TO THOSE RURAL
UNIONS WITH WHICH AIFLD HAS TRADITIONALLY WORKED. THESE
ARE THE BANANA WORKERS' UNIONS OF CHIRIQUI AND BOCAS DEL TORO
AND THE AGRO-INDUSTRIAL FISITRACO FEDERATION (FEDERACION
INDUSTRIAL DE SINDICATOS DE TRABAJADORES DE COCLE). THE
GOVERNMENT-DIRECTED PRE-COOPERATIVE RURAL ASENTAMIENTO
PROGRAM WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR AUDS PARTICIPATION UNDER
PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. THE SENSITIVE POLITICAL SITUATION RELATING TO WORK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMONG CAMPESINOS (AS CITED IN REF B) STILL EXISTS IN

PANAMA. ACCORDINGLY, FULL MISSION REVIEW WOULD BE CALLED FOR IN THE EVENT OF ANY PROPOSAL TO EXPAND THE AUDS PROGRAM INTO NEW GROUPS.

3. WE SEE NO DIFFICULTY IN CARRYING OUT PROPOSALS RELATING TO BANANA WORKERS SEMINARS ARE NON-CONTROVERSIAL AND EVEN PROVIDING ACTIVISTS FOR WORK WITH PANAMA'S WELL-ESTABLISHED, HIGHLY ORGANIZED BANANA WORKERS' UNIONS WOULD BREAK NO NEW GROUND OR GIVE MISSION PROBLEMS.

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Concepts: AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENTS, PROGRAM ASSISTANCE

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